

Washington Will Yet Know The Facts Of Shortgrasser's Life

By Monte Noelke

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MERTZON, Texas — Of all the tight-mouthed tight olds wads roaming the face of the earth, the largest concentrate of his element must be working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. At least, if the USDA is treating other matters as they've treated my year-old project to make a movie of the Shortgrass Country, it's incontestable that the vast bureau is surely staffed by some of the most outstanding penny pinchers and word savers since the beginning of time.

You'd think the very least the Department could do would be to send me a note of encouragement. After all, the sole purpose of the film is to enlighten the Government toward the miseries that enshroud this land the Indians often called Weak Broth.

Heaven knows, it wouldn't benefit the lay Shortgrasser to be made any more aware of the grief he faces every waking hour. If that were the case, then an army of local reporters could be recruited to write a series of diatribes tragic enough in flavor to make an Apache death chant seems as lighthearted as the Merry Widow Waltz.

Nevertheless the agency's indifferent attitude hasn't dimmed my determination to complete the move. The real-life drama is going to be shot, even if it's my last act in behalf of mankind. And the fact that a bunch of sort sighed bureaucrats don't send either money or official sanction isn't going to hole up the work one day; neither will short money, dust or drouth prevent work on the true picture of the Shortgrass Country.

Lack of finances won't deter the effort; doing without money doesn't mean as much to a rancher as a shortage of costumes does to a chorus girl. Come to think of it, if the great game of ranching ever catches the eye of lingual purists, the name will probably be changed from "ranching" to "short financing," or the Red Man's connotation — "Low Ball." So if the Civil service employes think they can starve this movie out of existence, they have lived too long in the cloistered world of officialdom to ever re-establish contact with the stock raising industry. There have been some moves to polish the cinema in order to improve chances of the Department seeing it.

For instance the sequence originally called "The Shortgrass Boss Structure" has been changed to "A Study of the Command Structure Which Provides the Horizontal and/or the Vertical Stimuli to Inspire and/or Initiate the Action and/or Work of the Working Force on Edward's Plateau."

The picture's only love scene, "Love on A Spreader Dam," which has been ready for months, has also been renamed. This scorching drama is now titled "The Various Motivations and/or Relationships, Both Primary and Secondary, That Can Arise During the Early and/or Late Stages of Planning and/or Erecting Earthen Structures."

Patience must be my game. These slight improvements may take time to reach the desks of the huge, multi-purpose agency. But it's worth the time to know that some day the Government will have a chance to become reoriented to a business that has often been called simply "the Kicking End."